

W. A. T. 5
Taken from records in the office of the County Clerk of Pocahontas County.

John Bradshaw, aged 74 years on the second day of February, 1833, a resident of Pocahontas County, personally appeared and made oath to the following in order to obtain benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

Mr. Bradshaw said that he had entered the service as an Indian spy in the spring of the year of 1776, and that he was just then entering the eighteenth year of his age. At the time he entered the service as a spy, he was a private in a company of Militia commanded by Captain John Henderson. He said that he then resided in that part of Virginia which is now in the County of Monroe, but that whether it was then Botetourt or not, he does not know. Before he entered the service, he took the oath of fidelity and the oath to perform the duties of a spy. He went into the service as a spy on the first day of May 1776 and was discharged on the first day of November following, having continued in service six months and until that season of the year arrived when the fear of Indian depredations no longer existed, owing to the fact that the Indians, as was their general custom, had retired to their winter quarters. Again in the spring of 1777, he entered the service as an Indian spy on the fifteenth day of April and was discharged as before on the first day of November, having performed a tour of six months and a half. He again went into service as an Indian spy on the fifteenth day of April 1778 and continued in service until the first day of November following. He commenced his expeditions as an Indian

spy again on May 1, 1779, making in all two years and one month service that he performed as an Indian spy.

The nature of his services as an Indian spy was to leave Cook's Fort on Indian Creek and be out from three to four days each week, then return and others would go for the same length of time. The companion who was mostly with John Bradshaw was a man by the name of James Ellis, and he did not know what had become of him, but as he was considerably older than himself, thought it likely that he was dead. He sometimes went in company with Colonel Samuel Estell of Kentucky. Their practice was for two to go together, and when they returned another two would start out. The place where he performed these services as an Indian spy was in the gaps and low places in the chain of mountains between the William Safferty plantation on the New River and the head waters of Laurel Creek. When they met the spies from Burnside Fort, they traveled the country which included the waters of Big and Little Stony Creek, the head waters of Indian Draft, a branch of Indian Creek, and the head waters of Wolf Creek. The distance or space of country over which he had to travel was supposed to be about thirty miles. In performing the duties of a spy, they had to carry their provisions with them, it being against the nature of their oath and instructions, and also jeopardized their own safety to make a fire at night no matter how inclement the weather might be.

WATOGA STATE PARK

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Topic Conservation & Reclamation W. Va.

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Author: Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

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Complete statement on Natoga State Park. Gives location area, recreational facilities; brief account of CCC camps -

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